

Prairieland Talk

# "Lads Caught by Priest"

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 4110 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

There was no schoolhouse, no courthouse, in the early 1880's in my youthful days in O'Neill. No post office building, no homes up that way except the little shanty of a house that was the home of Father Smith, the early day pastor of Saint Patrick's church, where the well adorned edifice now stands. It was a Sunday morning and some kids were romping about in the open south of the church. The priest saw them and out he came and herded the boys into his sanctuary. And who were those lads, just sons of fathers and mothers of pioneer days and members of Father Smith's church group. Yes, Frank Mann was one of them. Ed Tierney another and "Powderly" McNichols another with two or three more. Jimmie Davidson and I were laughing onlookers with a few others over whom that devout priest had no authority, all of them dead and gone now while Prairieland Talker is still sticking around and will probably venture to go by that place of an early day the next visit I make to the home town of my youth.



Romaine Saunders

He tells us he was 150 miles skyward and flew around the world, on which you and I walk, three times in four hours. I wonder. Yet, I read in holy scripture that a Hebrew captive who had become prime minister in old Babylon while engaged in his evening devotions with his vision directed to his home land felt the touch of a hand. Looking up to him, "At the beginning of thy supplications the command came and I was made to fly swiftly." From heaven to earth in a few minutes. Has now one of our adventuresome citizens flown at the speed of a Heavenly Being, and what sort of wagon or hoisted did he have and what was it that pushed him on at 1700 miles an hour. Fifty miles an hour on the highways is fast enough for old man Prairieland Talker.

The Tribune, the Alliance Tribune, the Beacon Light in the basement of the bank that still stands, the Holt County People in a little building by Brennan's hardware store, the Free Press in the basement of the Holt County Bank building, the Sentinel a block east of that bank, the Item near the Biglin building on south Fourth street, The Sun in the bank basement just to the north of where the Item office had been, and The Frontier which survives them all after experiencing two fires and one attempt to wreck the plant. And The Frontier with the Holt County Independent still dish up the news at O'Neill and nine or ten other sheets now no more.

Editorial

## First Hand Information

It won't be long before the local schools will be visited by representatives of higher education institutions.

At this time the graduating seniors are given information concerning different professions they might be interested in as their life's work. Universities, colleges and business schools explain the schedules needed for the chosen professions and present subjects available at the institutions.

We will remember the confusion at this age—the uncertainty in making up one's mind as to what, if anything, we wanted to do the rest of our life.

However, when we had Career Day, local business and professional people gave of their time to come to the schoolhouse and personally talk to the seniors. They explained in first-hand knowledge the good and the bad points of their work, even discussed the financial prospects for each profession.

Within the number of businessmen and professional people who gave their talks were a few who were truly dedicated to their work. They talked of their work in such a way that they "reached" students and enthused them to the point that they wanted to do the same thing.

In particular we remember a nurse who was so delighted with her profession that she couldn't sing enough praises about nursing. Consequently, many senior girls promptly decided to be a nurse.

So now north Nebraska ranch homes and cattle ranch life is to be filmed, with a bunch of sandhills cowboy ranchers showing off. Glad to note that R. H. Clifford of our Atkinson community is one of the group undertaking this film method of giving the public a look-in on prairieland's great industry and the happy home life on our vast grass robed landscape. And I think again of my horse and saddle days of the long ago on the open prairie which I left to become a printer newspaper editor. And did it not have its fascination, too?

Now the month of March. To many in the O'Neill community in earlier times a day in March was observed in memory of their revered Saint Patrick. My father, his lifeless form in the abode of the dead for 75 years, was born on March 17, in the year 1830, and as a child saw that frightening and wondrous sight the falling stars in 1833. My youngest son was born into this troubled world a Saint Patrick's day, and was over there in government service in Hawaiian waters when Pearl Harbor was blown up by the Japanese. Saint Patrick's Day—get your green ribbon.

The FE & MV trains puffed their way up the Elkhorn stopping at towns along the way, pulled up to a stop by the depot at the southern limits of O'Neill. Maybe John McBride and Rosco Conklin got off the train as Mike Lyons got on to return to Emmet and Editor Werts got aboard to return to his job at Stuart. The train rolled on to come to a stop at Long Pine the end of the railroad in early times. But later tracks were laid on west and eventually the Northwestern railroad was rolling trains across north Nebraska. Then came The Short Line out of Sioux City to O'Neill. An age of railroading. Where is it now? No passenger trains today serving those in northern Nebraska and southern South Dakota. The last train I saw roll out of O'Neill was a long line of freight cars making a train nearly a half mile in length. Passenger trains no more. But buses. A bus from the north, from the west, south and east. But can we never have a passenger car to ride in again up and down the Elkhorn Valley?

Said to be five million women alcoholics in our fair land. How to prevent becoming one of them is being studied. One sure way—touch not the stuff that makes it.

Yes, out where that blanket of snow now is, some weeks from now will be a robe of velvet green, the blooming prairie rose, the beautiful golden rod and the birds flying about. The winter cold and long will end and spring time beauties bloom again.

# Frontiers Ago

### 50 YEARS AGO

J. P. Gallagher left for St. Joseph, Mo., last Sunday to purchase his spring and summer stock. With a \$20,000 hotel building and a \$15,000 free public library assured for this year O'Neill promises to be quite lively during the building season of 1912. F. C. Gatz has disposed of his meat market to Smith & Larson who took charge last Monday. Last Wednesday D. H. Cronin filed for re-nomination to the legislature from the 53rd legislative district. A scheduled 10-round boxing bout between Gene Sullivan and George Dixon ended in the second round last Friday night when Dixon, after having taken several straight punches on the jaw, threw up the sponge. W. B. Graves, the popular jeweler, has been passing the cigars around to celebrate the arrival of a son at his home Monday.

### 25 YEARS AGO

County Clerk Gallagher, County Judge Malone and Superintendent of Schools McClurg are now in their new quarters at the new courthouse. Dr. F. L. Wilson of Stuart has disposed of his practice to spend some time in post graduate work. Mrs. Mary E. Lamason died at the home of her son northeast of Page Monday morning at the age of 89 years. Editor Ralph Kelly of the Atkinson Graphic has been elected to the presidency of the Nebraska Press association. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hicks, who have been residing at Page the past two years, have moved back to O'Neill.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Kenneth Waring, Republican, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Holt county board of supervisors created when Axel L. Borg, O'Neill, Republican, resigned. St. Mary's Cardinals capture class "C" basketball tournament at Atkinson 39-37. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Albrecht have been informed that their son, Pvt. Edward H. Albrecht, has been wounded in action in Korea. Petitions appeared this week to place the names of O. D. French and John C. Watson on the municipal election ballot for city clerk and city treasurer positions, respectively. Todd Tomlinson, former O'Neill resident, dies February 29 at Lynch following long illness. Holt county to furnish 10 inductees.

### 5 YEARS AGO

Thomas J. Donohoe celebrates 85th birthday March 3. F. N. Cronin and Ira H. Moss announce they would not be candidates for re-election to city school board of education. Mrs. Helen Sullivan's flower shop is moved from south side of Douglas to north side first door east of Golden hotel. Robert J. Yantzie, 34, lifelong resident of the O'Neill community, dies February 28 after two months illness. Mrs. Ada Cox, Chambers, will celebrate her 92nd birthday March 8. Mr. and Mrs. John Kee will hold open house Sunday in observance of 50th wedding day. Manager Don McKamy of the O'Neill Grain company announces his firm has purchased the Brad-dock elevator at Page.

## The Long Ago

### At Chambers

The basket social given by Miss Bernice Adams Friday evening in the Wintermote School District, was a huge success both socially and financially about sixty being present. P. E. Fisher, who has bought the cream route from E. E. Perrin, has moved into the old Fern Smith residence. Mr. Fern Smith and Mr. Clint Grimes left Monday for Arriola, Colo., where they expect to locate if suited. "The Lady of Lake" will be played in Chambers March 15. Young Peters lost a valuable horse in O'Neill last Friday in a runaway. Charles Henderson is moving on the George Anderson place. Charles Allen has sold his farm and rented the Reed Bell farm where he will live. Adv. — Round steak, 15 cents; sirloin steak, 15 cents; shoulder steak, 12 cents, and potatoes, \$1 per bushel at Smith Brothers.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Judge J. Q. Ingram spoke the words that united in holy wedlock Miss Lois Snyder and Mr. Wilbur Osborn February 20 at Neligh. Knute Thompson and family moved this week to Answorth and C. I. Smith and family are moving into the place vacated by the former. Funeral services were held for Ernest Carl Zuehlke who died February 23 at the age of 60 years. Oscar Erwin and family have rented a farm between O'Neill and Page and have moved to their new location. The Chambers Circle club will meet with Mrs. Bob Starr March 5. Chambers team did not play at Neligh Friday in the basketball tournament as it was cancelled due to a scarlet fever epidemic in Neligh.

## Alice's Beauty Shop

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## Riverside News

By Mrs. Lionel Gunter

Friends in the Riverside community had a miscellaneous shower for Jacqueline Barnhart Wednesday evening at the Grant Mott home.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller and family visited Friday evening at the William Lofquist home.

Becky Miller was a guest of Jody and Julie Fry last Sunday. Sherry Switzer spent Thursday night with Joan Miller.

The Kenneth Pollock family were dinner guests Sunday at the Dave Pollocks.

The Forum group and their families had a waffle supper Friday at the church annex.

Carol Ann Napier was an overnight guest of Nancy and Reta Napier Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Napier were supper guests.

Shelia Fry spent Thursday night with Janice Fry.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Ahlers were dinner guests last Sunday at the Fred Ritter home at Tilden in honor of Patricia Ritter's birthday anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry, Nancy and Reta Napier visited in O'Neill Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Shrader and David, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wettlaufer and Gary and Eddie and Alice Shrader were supper guests last Sunday at the Archie Johnston home.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry were supper guests last Sunday at the Richard Napiers.

Mr. and Mrs. George Keller and family were supper guests last Sunday at the Alfred Napier home.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Napier, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Napier and Sonja, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Fry,

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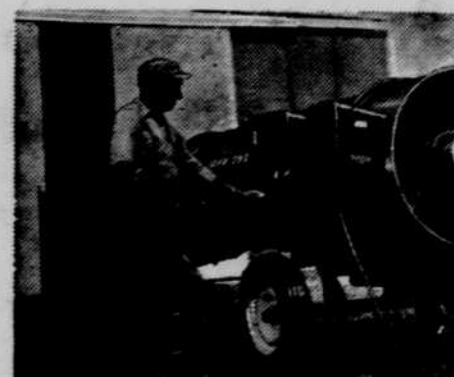
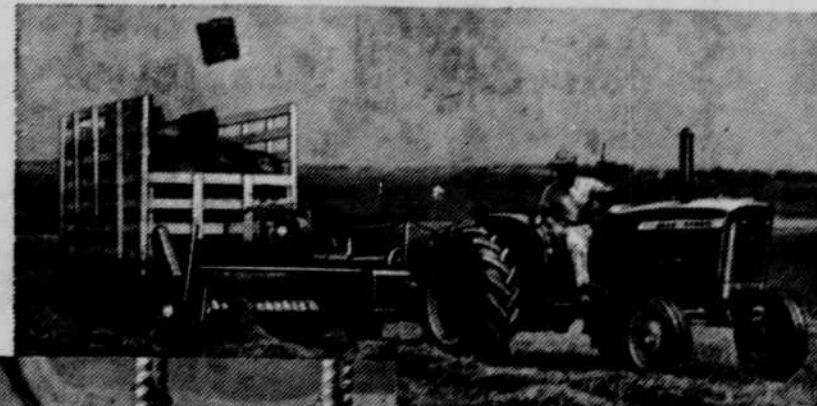
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